GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5456
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2001
ZUDPI JUNGLE IN MAHARASHTRA
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Minister of Maharashtra met him recently and discussed the Zudpi Jungle problem in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken so far by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the Zudpi jungle issue is likely to be resolved?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU)

(a) to (d) A statement is at Annexure.

ANNEXURE

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF REPLY TO THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. REGARDING `ZUDPI JUNGLE IN MAHARASHTRA` DUE FOR REPLY ON 23.4.2001.

(a) to (d) The High Power Committee constituted by the Ministry to resolve the issue of Zudpi jungle land in Maharashtra had identified 1,78,525 ha. Zudpi jungle land with Revenue Department.Out of this 32,229.81 ha. was fragmented holding not suitable for forestry, 27,507.34 ha. was under encroachment and 26,672.13 ha. was already under other non-forest uses thereby adding upto 86,409.28 ha. The Committee have recommended that the Government of India should give permission under Forest (Conservation) Act for de-notification of this 86,409 ha. Zudpi land. It also identified 92,115 ha. Zupdi land suitable for forestry and recommended its notification as Reserved Forest/Protected Forest.

The Central Government after examining the report of the Committee, communicated its decision to the State Government vide its letter No. 4-8/87-FC dated 15.9.2000 to allow 32,230 hectare of fragmented/patchy Zudpi jungle to be recorded as revenue land subject to the condition that it will be used for pasture and grazing purpose only and in no case it should be used for construction and mining. The State was also directed to notify 92,115 hectare as Reserved Forest/Protected Forest.Regarding the other two categories of Zudpi jungle i.e. land under encroachment and land already diverted for non-forestry use after 1992, the Ministry had already requested the State Government vide its letter no. 4-8/87-FC dated 12.02.92 to submit specific separate proposals for regularisation of the same as also for making mutation in revenue records in respect of patchy/fragmented holdings not suitable for management as forests.

At the recent meeting the Chief Minister, Maharashtra was apprised of the statutory requirement under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and further progress will depend on the time taken by the State to submit the said proposals complete in all respects.